

REMARKS

Claim Status

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended, and claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 remain pending. It should be understood that the amendments herein were made to clarify claim language and not to limit or narrow the scope of the claims, and thus, they should not be interpreted as narrowing claim amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the finding of allowable subject matter by the Examiner with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7.

35 USC 112 Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In the interest of expediting allowance of this application and without conceding the issue of patentability, claim 1 has been amended as described above. Consequently, claim 1 is now deemed to be patentable over the cited art. Similarly, without conceding the issue of patentability, claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and hence at least derive their respective patentability therefrom. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also allowable over the cited art.

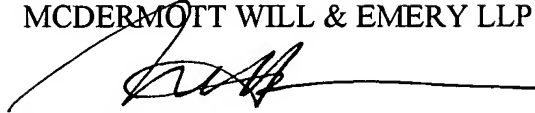
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No. 10/033,705

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Ng', is written over the firm name.

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